

FRENCH INDQ-CHINA

of the Sino-Annamhe dream of houses,
fields, and an-

It was such an excellent instrument for
expansion,
the state was to stay its centralizing hand and to
leave it largely

development of communal organization has had a most
The commune is a miniature state which is governed
by self-elected Notables. "If the king makes the

law,
tie custom," says an Annamite proverb.

In Indo-
is in so parts of the East, the clan preceded the
family,

to clay many Aimamites still live under the clan
regime. This

is in the which imposes responsibility for
crimes and

the rather than upon the individual. The clan
probably

to a forming communal life, when the
Annamites

existence and became established as farmers or

At first the Gumeses merely perfected the
rudimentary

organisation, but gradually they fashioned the
their own image. This evolution was cut short

by At of CMrn*s poEtical control, so the
Annamite commune

not by the changes subsequently wrought in
Chinese¹

by the Manehus and Mongols. To this day the
of communal officials' can be traced to

obsolete

has aa enormous influence upon the growth
Pt^emsneitiy concerned with the cultivation of virgin

toil tad the of frontiers, the Qdnese4nspked
code taught

tie methods and moulded the
commune

to tM\$ The **was** an combination of
local initiative

it was the old nomadic impulse

that gave to this expansion its driving

the of cQ&uiuuie-claxi felt that the soil
was,

for lu& population, he chose the

of the ywmger genemtion to direct the

of « Hie *jmmg* leader called to- ids

aid
 and Initiative* Among
 those who
die resourceiess and the
 malcon-
rtf tjb e old fek well rid. *The* new
 villages,
 were ike so many frontier
tike of an eaqpandiag civilimtibn in
lit ***re** to be the best
 guarantee
 tie origia or dwad^r **of**
 the
 3*